

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4340

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FINAL SECTION OF TWO CAIRO 3528

POSITIONS, WITH THE GSO POSITION BEING GIVEN PRIORITY.
SMITH WILL RETAIN OVERALL ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY
AND BE MY PRINCIPAL ADVISOR ON ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS, BUT
HE WILL ALSO HAVE THE NECESSARY STAFF TO SUPERVISE ROUTINE
OPERATIONS DURING WHAT WILL BE A VERY IMPORTANT AND BUSY
PERIOD AS WE REESTABLISH RELATIONS. IF WE HAVE A FULL-SIZE
MISSION AT THE TIME OF SMITH'S TRANSFER, WE CAN REPLACE HIM
AT THE SENIOR LEVEL; OR IF WE DECIDE THAT TWO OFFICERS IN THE
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION IS A SUFFICIENT NUMBER FOR A SMALL
EMBASSY OR INTERESTS SECTION OPERATION, AN FSO-4 LEVEL POSITION
IS ABOUT RIGHT AND THE GSO OR B&F OFFICER COULD BE NAMED
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IF EITHER ONE IS SUFFICIENTLY WELL
QUALIFIED. IN THIS CASE SMITH WOULD NOT BE REPLACED.

AS REGARDS THE B&F POSITION, WE MUST ASSUME THAT THERE
WILL BE MUCH MORE FISCAL ACTIVITY AS OUR LARGE HOLDINGS OF
EGYPTIAN POUNDS (OVER ONE HUNDRED MILLION) ARE PUT TO USE.
SMITH HAS HAD TO RELY HEAVILY UPON EGYPTIAN STAFF OVER THE
PAST YEAR AND ONE-HALF TO KEEP THINGS RUNNING, BUT HE AND
I BOTH BELIEVE THAT THE FUNDS INVOLVED AND THE "NORMAL"
BUSINESS PRACTICES THAT EXIST HERE DICTATE THE NEED FOR A
RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN OFFICER DIRECTLY IN CHARGE OF THE
BUDGET AND FISCAL OPERATIONS. THIS OFFICER COULD ALSO SERVE
AS PRINCIPAL CERTIFYING OFFICER THEREBY PERMITTING A BETTER
SEPARATION OF FUNCTIONS.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE NEW REQUIREMENTS LISTED ABOVE, WE

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REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT FILL THE FOLLOWING VACANT POSITION:

14-5530-009, POLITICAL/ECONOMIC OFFICER FSO-3

THE POLITICAL/ECONOMIC OFFICER WILL SERVE AS CHIEF OF THE
POLITICAL/ECONOMIC UNIT AND SHOULD BE AT FIRST SECRETARY LEVEL

3. OVERALL PRIORITY FOR FILLING POSITIONS IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. BOTH COMMUNICATORS

2. POL/ECON SECRETARY

3. GSO

4. POL/ECON OFFICER, FSO-3

5. POL/ECON OFFICER, FSO-5

6. BUDGET AND FISCAL OFFICER

4. ABOVE REPRESENTS FIRST STEP WHICH SHOULD MEET OUR NEEDS
IN PRESENT US INTERESTS SECTION CONFIGURATION. SHOULD FULL
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BE RESUMED AT ANY TIME, WE SHALL OF
COURSE REQUIRE FURTHER AUGMENTATION. EVEN WITH AFORE-
MENTIONED ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL, WE MAY ON OCCASION REQUIRE
TDY HELP DEPENDING UPON SITUATION. THERE SHOULD BE NO PUBLICITY
TO THIS MODEST INCREASE IN USINT STAFF.

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